

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for producing a cleaning blade; the process comprising the steps of:

(1) impregnating with an isocyanate compound at
5 least part of the surface portion of a blade formed of a urethane resin;

(2) after the impregnation, blowing warm air or hot air on the blade surface to remove the isocyanate compound remaining on the blade surface; the warm air or
10 hot air having a temperature not lower than the melting point of the isocyanate compound; and

(3) allowing the urethane resin that forms the blade to react with the isocyanate compound with which the blade stands impregnated, to form a cured layer.
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2. The process for producing a cleaning blade according to claim 1, which further comprises, between the steps (2) and (3), the step of further removing with a solvent the isocyanate compound remaining on the blade
20 surface.

3. The process for producing a cleaning blade according to claim 1, wherein the step (1) is carried out by immersing the blade in an isocyanate compound
25 bath.

4. The process for producing a cleaning blade

according to claim 1, wherein, in the step of impregnating the blade with an isocyanate compound, the urethane resin that forms the blade has a water content of 1% by weight or less.

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5. The process for producing a cleaning blade according to claim 1, which further comprises the step of deactivating excess unreacted isocyanate groups with an active hydrogen compound causative of no
10 cross-linking reaction.

6. A cleaning blade for electrophotography, produced by the process according to claim 1, wherein the cured layer has a ten-point average roughness Rz of
15 5 μm or less.

7. A cleaning blade produced by the process according to claim 1, wherein the cured layer has a hardness of from 60° to 90°.

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8. A cleaning blade produced by the process according to claim 1, wherein the cured layer has a rubber hardness that is larger by 1° to 10° than the rubber hardness at the portion where the cured layer is
25 not formed.

9. An electrophotographic apparatus in which the

cleaning blade produced by the process according to claim 1 is set.

10. An electrophotographic apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the cured layer formed by allowing the urethane resin that forms the blade to react with the isocyanate compound with which the blade stands impregnated, is disposed in contact with a toner holding member.